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23 November 1964

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
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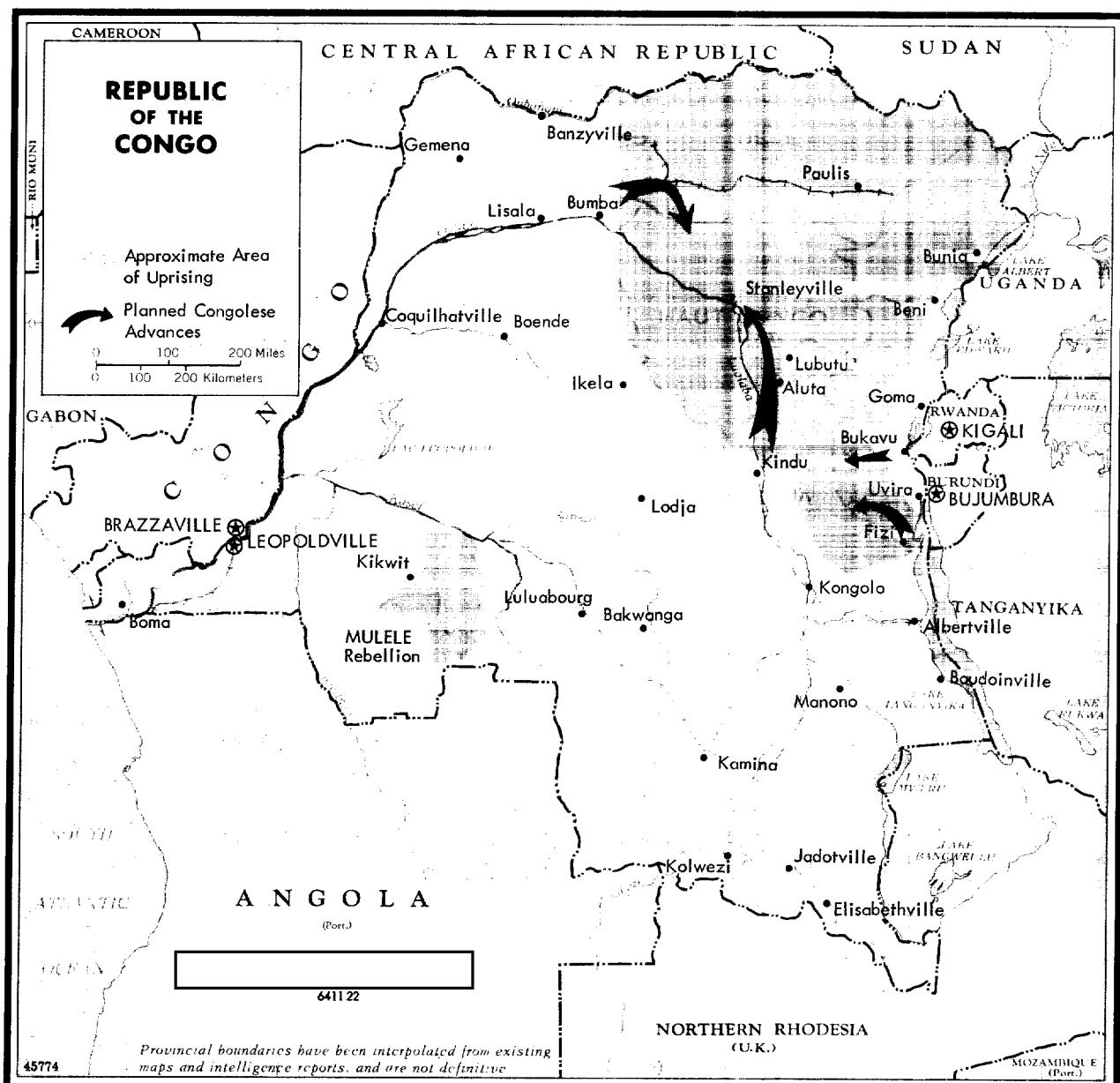
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DAILY BRIEF

Congo: The main mercenary column moving on Stanleyville is in position to make the final push on the city tomorrow.

On 22 November the column, after overcoming difficulties in ferrying equipment across the Lowa river at Aluta, was pushing on to Lubutu. An additional supporting force for the column began to cross the river yesterday after moving up from Kindu.

So far rebel resistance to the main column has been light. The mercenaries are supported by four T-28s and four T-6s operating from Punia, and by three B-26s from Kindu.

The situation in Stanleyville appears to be increasingly volatile. There are signs that top rebel authorities may have fled the city, leaving it in the hands of youth gangs which in the past have been the main perpetrators of atrocities against Europeans.

Broadcasts from Stanleyville continue to reiterate that the hostages are well but that their fate depends on the successful conclusion of negotiations apparently now going on in Nairobi. Rebel "foreign minister" Thomas Kanza, appointed by "president" Gbenye to be sole rebel spokesman in negotiations on the disposition of the hostages, did not appear in Nairobi until yesterday.

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South Vietnam: Premier Huong has demonstrated his determination not to be swayed by agitation in the streets for changes in his government, but he may soon face more serious open opposition.

Police yesterday broke up a demonstration in Saigon by several hundred students, injuring a number and arresting 30. Later in the day, a much larger crowd, which had assembled around Chief of State Pham Khac Suu's official residence, was dispersed by regular troops using tear gas grenades.

Buddhist leaders have announced that they will protest alleged police brutality in breaking up the demonstrations, which appear to have had some Buddhist sanction.

Principal Buddhist leader Tri Quang, though opposed to the Huong government, has thus far remained on the sidelines, permitting his rival, Tam Chau, to lead Buddhist agitation for government changes. Yesterday's outbreaks, however, may impel Tri Quang to throw his considerable influence behind overt anti-government activities.

Regular army participation in quashing yesterday's agitation indicates that the military, for the moment at least, is prepared to back Huong. It is uncertain, however, whether General Khanh would be willing to provide sustained support in the face of possible further student-Buddhist provocations.

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DAILY BRIEF

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United Nations: [The four UN ambassadors who promulgated the plan for a "voluntary rescue fund" to permit delinquents to pay their UN arrears will probably take no further action until the USSR and France respond.]

[New proposals by two of these ambassadors to modify the plan have created sharp divisions in the group and are limiting its ability to take more effective action. The Norwegian member of the group discounts as untrue a recent press report that Moscow has rejected the voluntary fund idea.]

[Moscow, however, has not changed its adamant position on the payment issue. According to a Czechoslovakian UN official, Moscow has enough votes to put off the question until next year's General Assembly session and will move for postponement.]

[Whether the USSR has enough votes is questionable. Many UN members, however, are eager to avoid confrontation on the issue and may subscribe to any maneuver that will put off a showdown.]

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NOTES

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USSR: Moscow reportedly has decided to concentrate on purchasing Western engineering technology and licenses for foreign processes rather than continuing to buy entire plants built by Western technicians for turnover to the USSR when ready for operation.

This new policy has been adopted during the past month and is aimed in part at conserving foreign exchange,

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This decision may account for the virtual standstill in negotiations for Western plants, including the \$85 million deal with Britain's Imperial Chemical Industries, which has been under discussion for nearly a year.

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Czechoslovakia: Czechoslovak party boss Novotny, who failed to attend the 7 November celebrations in Moscow, has accepted an invitation to go to Moscow in the next few days to meet with the new Soviet leaders. Re-elected president on 12 November, Novotny apparently has strong domestic support for his show of independence toward Moscow since Khrushchev's ouster. In his re-election speech, Novotny asserted that Czechoslovakia would remain loyal to the Warsaw Pact, but the Soviet leaders undoubtedly want to know how far Prague intends to push its independent line.

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*France: In his 22 November speech at Strasbourg, De Gaulle reasserted France's new found friendship for West Germany and the "paramount importance" France assigns to the job of reaching early accord on agricultural prices within the Common Market. He associated the price problem with an alleged disunity in the European political sphere, "which first of all concerns defense," and urged the creation of a "European" military force, "allied of course to the New World, but...with its own means and its own obligations." An economically and politically independent continental organization might then, according to De Gaulle, attract to it the East European bloc nations to form a new, viable, and powerful Europe.

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